GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3193
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2006
PAK ASSISTANCE FOR INVESTIGATION OF BOMB BLASTS
Deora Shri Milind Murli

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Pakistan has offered assistance to investigate the serial train bomb blasts that took place recently in Mumbai;

(b) If so, the details in this regard; and

(c) The reaction of the Union Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED)

(a) − (b) Yes. After the Mumbai train blasts on 11 July 2006, Pakistan President Musharraf in a speech on 20 July 2006 said that "Pakistan will fully help India to identify terrorists or their organization if we are provided with specific information and evidence".

(c) In response to President Musharraf's offer to help in investigations in the Mumbai blasts if evidence is provided to him, the Spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs said on 21 July 2006 that it "gives us no cause for satisfaction in view of Pakistan's refusal to cooperate in the past, most recently at the Home Secretary level talks in May this year, when substantial evidence was provided to Pakistan of the presence on its territory of terrorist groups and fugitives. Nevertheless, in view of President Musharraf's assurance, we will continue to provide to Pakistani authorities all available evidence and await practical action on their part." However, Government is disappointed at Pakistan's continuing denial of the presence of and failure to take action against jihadi groups threatening to operate against India from Pakistan and Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK).